National Horticulture Mission

508. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Centrally sponsored scheme on National Horticulture Mission with an outlay of Rs. 2300 crores in the Tenth Five Year Plan has been formulated to imporve production, processing and marketing of fruits and vegetables through out the year in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including any plan drawn up to strengthen the infrastructural facilities for cold chains, marketing years, value additions, etc. and its present status; and

(c) the details of specific measures outline to establish quality control and assurance laboratories for horticultural produce to meet the strict sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards insisted upon by the importing countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Horticulture Mission (NHM) envisages the overall development of horticulture duly ensuring an end to end approach covering production, post-harvest management and marketing. Strengthening of infrastructure facilities through construction of pack houses, cold storage units, controlled atmosphere storage units and setting up wholesale and Rural Markets/Aoni Mandis/Direct Markets from an integral part of the mission.

(c) Setting up laboratories within the public and private sector and providing assistance for meeting the cost for obtaining sanitary and phyto-sanitary certificates for import/export of horticultural produce is a part of NHM.

Foodgrain output and target

509. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrain output of the country had a downfall during the period 2004-05 and the foodgrain target has been downscaled for the period 2005-06;